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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Austria/USSR

DATE DISTR. 8 March 1951

SUBJECT KPOe Being Purged of Titoist Elements

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1. During the recent trip of Johann Koplenig and Franz Honner abroad, the Soviet political officer and Cominform representative in Austria, Colonel Svirnov, appointed a board headed by Lauscher* and Fuhrmann to conduct a purge of Titoist elements in the KPOe. The Party chairman and deputy chairman are possible victims.
2. The board has confirmed the existence of Titoist centers in the KPOe and has blamed recent Party failures on Titoist sabotage in the top ranks of the Party. Svirnov has also ordered the recall and the reissuance of party cards on the basis of a lengthy questionnaire. Membership is to be refused to persons who served in Western armies, or were prisoners of war of these armies. Only Moscow-trained members are to have leading positions. Ludwig Soswinsky has already been purged because he has never been in Russia. Members with Western contacts are to be placed on indefinite probation. Magda Schorr-Dahlen, Friedrich Raufer** and Nathan Badian of the Central Committee Control Division have allegedly been removed from their posts for negligence in handling Party funds. Government sources say the real reason is that they are suspected of Titoism.
3. The KPOe strike plans for March 1951 have been dropped because of these purges of the Titoist element.

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Possibly Fritz or Josef Lauscher.

Probably identical with Heinrich Raufer who is listed as a member of the Central Control Division of the Central Committee of the KPOe.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 18 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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